THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, it is a fact that the Indian Council of World Affairs had organized an annual Inter-University Debate Competition in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi from 1986 till 1999. No debating competitions were organized from the year 2000 onwards.

217 Universities took part in the years 1996 to 1999. The year-wise break-up of the number of Universities is as under:

Year	Number of Universities, which participated
1996	52
1997	43
1998	52
1999	70

The event was organized solely by the Indian Council of Word Affairs from its own resources. Government of India did not provide any financial assistance for the event.

Renting out of the surplus portion of ICWA premises

1491. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of World Affairs had rented out surplus portion of their building to the Government institutions like Institute of Defence Studies, Children Films Society, etc. and whether prior permission was obtained by the ICWA; and

(b) if so, the year in which these institutions were given premises on rent and whether this allotment was in violation of Government Rules and Regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. It is a fact that the erstwhile management of the Indian Council of World Affairs, a Society, registered under the Registration of Societies Act. XXI of 1860, had rented out a portion of its building to the Institute for Defence Studies, Children Films Society, etc. The present management, which took over the Indian Council of World Affairs on 1st September 2000 by an Ordinance which was later replaced by the ICWA Act, 2001 (No. 29 of 2001), is not aware whether

prior permission for renting out these portions of the building was taken, as no records are available on this particular matter. It is, however, submitted that IDSA and Children Films Society etc. have since vacated the portions of the premises occupied by them.

Lifting of sanctions by USA

1492. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has lifted its sanctions against India for export of select equipment for civilian nuclear and space facilities in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Indian projects expected to be benefit from the lifting of U.S. curb?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) U.S. sanctions in India, imposed in 1998 after the nuclear tests, were lifted in September 2001. However, U.S. Department of Commerce has an export control regime in place for "dual use" items. All items are listed in Commerce Control List (CCL) of Department of Commerce. There is no blanket restriction on items in this list to be exported to India. The export licenses are given on case-to-case basis.

(b) The completion of Phase One of Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) was announced in a Joint Statement on 17 September 2004 during Foreign Secretary's visit to U.S., just before the PM's visit to USA. These efforts have enabled the US to make modifications to US export licensing policies that will foster cooperation in commercial space programms and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities. ISRO Headquarters have been removed from the Department of Commerce Entity List.

(c) Indian Space programmes would benefit by removal of ISRO Headquarters from the DoC's Entity List and the removal of EAR99/XX999 license requirements for ISRO subsidiaries still on the Entity List. Department of Atomic Energy would benefit from the extension of the